

Application No.: 10/575,110
Reply to Office Action of: May 14, 2008

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 3-5 have been canceled. The claims have been amended as supported by the specification and claims as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 will now be active in this application.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in amended Claim 1 relates to a hotmelt adhesive structure, comprising:

an upper dot and a lower dot on a substrate;
wherein the upper dot and the lower dot comprise an amine-terminated crosslinkable copolyamide and the lower dot further comprises a crosslinker and an acrylic and/or polyurethane dispersion.

In addition, the rejections of the Claims over Simon et al, Kohlhammer et al, Mattor et al and Hiratsuka et al are respectfully traversed.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants attach herewith two brochures concerning the double-dot technology, simply as background information.

Further Applicants note that the corresponding German document of Simon et al. (DE 198 08 809) is discussed at page 3, first paragraph, of the specification.

In Simon et al, it is described how a free isocyanate is stabilized against water. Therein, the free isocyanate is extruded into an inert polyolefin matrix and then finely ground once again. In this way, a stable cross-linkable system was created for the base dot. The disadvantage of this system is the complex and therefore expensive production of the water-stable isocyanate, and in addition the polyolefin matrix hinders the diffusion speed, thus resulting in a reduction of the reaction rate. Further, it has so far not been possible to provide a stable crosslinkable system for the base dot. See page 3, lines 11 and 12 of the

specification. Either the isocyanates could not be stabilized in water or the activation temperatures for crosslinking were too high.

The claimed cross-linkable melt-adhesive structure is characterized in that the reactive components present in the melt-adhesive structure react with cross-linking only in the melt. The activation temperature is lower than in previous systems and the structure has a good water resistance. See page 3, lines 24-32 of the specification.

In addition, the method of the present invention represents a simplification compared to Simon et al.

Kohlhammer et al, Mattor et al and Hiratsuka et al do not cure the defects of Simon et al.

Therefore, the rejections of the Claims over Simon et al, Kohlhammer et al, Mattor et al and Hiratsuka et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of the claims.

The objection to claims is obviated by the amendment of the claims.

Regarding the provisional double patenting rejection, the MPEP instructs the Examiner to withdraw the provisional rejection if it is the only issue remaining in one case and convert the provisional rejection in the other application to a double patenting rejection. MPEP 822.01.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the International Search Report, filed in the above-identified application on July 10, 2006, have been considered. The MPEP states as follows:

“The examiner will consider the documents cited in the international search report in a PCT national stage application when the Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that both the international search report and the copies of the documents are present in the national stage file. In such a case, the examiner should consider the documents from the international search report and indicate by a statement in the first Office action that the information has been considered.”

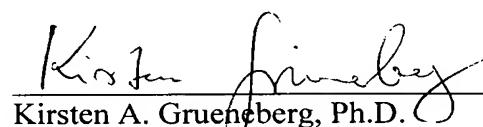
MPEP §609

The Office has acknowledged receipt of the International Search Report and the copies of the cited references on Form PCT/DO/EO/903. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to acknowledge consideration of the above references on the Form PTO1449 filed July 10, 2006.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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